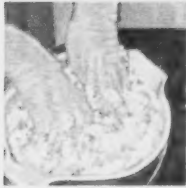


Annual Report 2011-2012



**ACTIVITIES OF THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**
April 1, 2011, to March 31, 2012



About the Cover Image

*"Mom's Biscuits – Home," by Lisa Murphy,
Acrylic, 8" x 8", 2009*

*This painting depicts Lisa's mother Margaret's hands
mixing biscuits for her family.*

About the Artist

Lisa Murphy's work for the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women spans 22 years, most as Executive Director. This past year, 2011-2012, was the last full year of her work as the Executive Director of the Advisory Council. During her time at the Advisory Council, Lisa was always dedicated to building the profile and livelihood of Island women artists, as she also developed her own talent as a painter and graphic designer. Lisa trained in Graphic Communications at Holland College in Charlottetown. She has exhibited in public and commercial galleries and recently has initiated PEI Art Road Trips with her sister Laurie to take Prince Edward Island artists' work direct to buyers in Toronto and Halifax and beyond. Thank you, Lisa, for sharing your many talents with the Advisory Council on the Status of Women.



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Advisory Council on the
Status of Women

PO Box 2000
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September 2012

Hon. Valerie Docherty, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women
PO Box 2000
Charlottetown PEI C1A 7N8

Dear Minister Docherty:

I am pleased to present you with the 2011–2012 Annual Report of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women. The Annual Report contains our audited financial statements and a summary of Council's activities, publications, and collaborations with government from April 1, 2011, to March 31, 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diane Kays".

Diane Kays, Chairperson

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



As this is my first Chairperson's message I want to thank Isabelle Christian for her excellent leadership

as the Advisory Council on the Status of Women's Chairperson for three years which concluded in June 2011.

After reviewing the contents of the Annual Report, I am amazed by the quantity and appreciative of the quality of work accomplished by Council and especially by our two-and-a-half person staff of Lisa Murphy, Jane Ledwell, and Becky Tramley.

With the conclusion of the fiscal year 2011-2012, I want to reflect on the past year and highlight a few areas.

In June 2011, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women (ACSW) released

its 2011 Equality Report Card with a news conference. More details about this important project to assess government's progress towards women's equality goals are noted on page 20 of this report. Review of the model is an ongoing process by staff and Council members as we work towards the next Report Card in 2013.

Council and staff continued to have Strategic Planning sessions (with a facilitator whenever possible) to focus on Council's priorities for the coming years. This process is very helpful for Council members and staff, and we will be able to assess and reassess in the years ahead.

A provincial election took place in October 2011, and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women played an active role before and after the election.

Council members and staff spent valuable time thinking about and discussing issues relevant to Island women and families. A major contribution was a series of videos posted online focusing on important issues, and the response to these was favourable. We were also able to express our hopes and concerns by other forms of media before and after the election.

Once again one of the ACSW's primary activities was the Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence. The Campaign was launched on November 25th, the day of a landmark Think Tank on Family Justice. The Think Tank was co-organized and co-sponsored with CLIA and was highly successful as it enabled members of the community to come together to discuss "increasing access to justice." Participants put forward some excellent ideas to pursue in the future,

including pursuing a Domestic Violence Court option. This continues to be a priority for the ACSW. On December 6th the ACSW held its Montreal Massacre Memorial Service which was well-attended by members of the public and members of the PEI Legislature. I was given the opportunity to give the address and focused on a personal social work story, "Her Name Was Eleanor," a powerful story of one woman's life cut short by violence.

During Family Violence Prevention Week in February, the ACSW sponsored a "Stand With Us" poster campaign to encourage anyone in the community to participate in taking a stand against violence. ACSW members and staff also participated in other activities during this week. The issues of violence against women and children continue to be a primary focus for the Advisory Council

on the Status of Women, and this focus will continue until the violence ends and there is no longer need for a campaign.

The final area I want to mention is that of poverty reduction or elimination on PEI. This past year, the province released a discussion paper, and ACSW staff and Council members reviewed it and provided a written response to Community Services Minister Docherty and to all of government. The ACSW will continue to focus on poverty issues, for they are pivotal to addressing numerous concerns relating to Island women and their families. We look forward to the PEI government releasing a comprehensive plan to reduce and prevent poverty.

I want to thank Honourable Janice Sherry and Honourable Valerie Docherty as past and current Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women,

along with Michelle Harris Genge, Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat. We appreciate their availability, their responsiveness to issues, and their respect and support for the work of the ACSW for the status of Island women.

Lastly, I want to thank the members of Council and staff who consistently work so hard to fulfill our mandate. My experience during my first year on Council and as Chairperson has been challenging and rewarding and made easier by Council members and staff. I look forward to another year of working with such dedicated women on behalf of PEI women and their families.



Diane Kays
Chairperson

ABOUT THE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Mandate

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women (PEIACSW) is a government-appointed provincial advisory agency made up of nine women who share a vision: respect and equality of opportunity for all people regardless of gender, race, religion, wealth, or ability.

The Advisory Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural, economic, and political spheres of life. Over the years, the Council has

developed a policy of commitment toward feminist process in conducting its affairs and in problem resolution.

The Advisory Council achieves its mandate through its unique relationship with both the government and the community. The Advisory Council began in 1975 as an Order-in-Council. In 1988, it received full legislative standing with the *PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*. This act continues to govern the Council's structure and mandate.

Roles of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women

- serves as a community arm to the provincial government
- acts as a liaison and advisor regarding issues identified by communities and individual women on PEI
- conducts research on these identified concerns and offers recommendations to government departments, committees, royal commissions, special task forces, and community consultations to promote equality
- informs the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women about events and issues concerning women's equality
- works collaboratively with community organizations and government systems towards equality for all women
- initiates and participates in projects and events of benefit to Island women
- responds to inquiries from individuals, organizations, and government
- listens to women and validates their experience in understanding issues that affect them and their families
- provides leadership that educates and stimulates public awareness about the status of women
- meets with other provincial/territorial Advisory Councils

Meetings

The PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women is mandated to meet at least four times per year. At meetings, Council members share experiences, knowledge, and understanding of issues; they discuss and decide on policy priorities and recommendations to government; they meet with government officials or community organizations; or they invite resource people who offer opportunities for learning and analysis.

Council's strategic planning processes are ongoing. The goal of Council Planning is to ensure that Council's policy work is based on Council's priorities and that Council looks to the future on issues of concern to women. Ensuring ongoing follow-up on issues is part of Council Planning. Council sets its objectives in an interest-based, collaborative, and consultative process, with expert facilitation whenever this is possible.

Advisory Council meetings, 2011–2012

- **116th meeting:** May 4, 2011, Cornwall, PEI
- **117th meeting:** June 22, 2011, Stratford, PEI
- **118th meeting:** September 8, 2011, West Point, PEI
- **119th meeting:** December 6, 2011, Charlottetown, PEI
- **120th meeting:** January 18, 2012, Charlottetown, PEI
- **121st meeting:** March 8, 2012, Charlottetown, PEI; *March 16:* Special meeting

Council Meeting highlights, 2011–2012

- *May 4, 2011, Cornwall, PEI – Equality Report Card Workshop*
Council members took part in a workshop to achieve consensus on the grades for the 2011 Equality Report Card and shared tools for consensus decision-making. Council members also nominated the Council member they wished to see as the next Chairperson, to be recommended to Executive Council.
- *June 22, 2011, Stratford, PEI – Equality Report Card Release*
The Council invited media and members of the public to the launch of the 2011 Report Card. They offered thanks and a service award to outgoing Chairperson Isabelle Christian and a 20-year service award to Executive Director Lisa Murphy.
- *September 8, 2011, West Point, PEI – Strategic Planning Session*
Council members welcomed new member Catherine Rankin and new Chairperson Diane Kays. Facilitator Julie Devon Dodd led a strategic planning session to focus the Advisory Council's priorities for the coming several years.
- *December 6, 2011 – Charlottetown, PEI – Montreal Massacre Memorial*
Council participated actively in Charlottetown's memorial service for victims of the December 6, 1989, Montreal Massacre.
- *January 18, 2012, Charlottetown, PEI – Looking Forward, Looking Back*
Council members reviewed activities and accomplishments from the previous six months and made plans together for actions for the coming year. Members also contributed comments for a video on their response to poverty issues.

- *March 8, 2012, Charlottetown, PEI – International Women’s Day*
Council welcomed a presentation on environmental health and personal care products by the PEI Environmental Health Coalition. Council members also took part in International Women Day events, especially a book launch hosted by Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty. The event celebrated *Les Acadiennes de l’Île-du-Prince-Édouard : Trois siècles d’action* by Jacinthe Laforest and Georges Arsenault for Actions Femmes Î.-P.É. Council members later followed up with a special meeting.

Council Strategic Planning, 2011–2012

- Organizational consultant Julie Devon Dodd led a strategic planning session at the September 8th Council meeting. Its purpose: to establish how Council will work together over the next two to three years to support the strategic direction of the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Council made plans and decisions based on
 - What is important to them as members of Council
 - What they hope to be their legacy as members of the Council, and
 - What they need to be effective in providing strategic leadership to the organization.
- Staff members participated in additional strategic planning meetings, with a focus on operational planning and priority setting.

Members

Members of the Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women members are appointed by Executive Council, selected from among Island women who have demonstrated a commitment to women's equality. Women self-nominate for inclusion through the "Participate PEI" program.

Members usually represent regional, cultural, and ethnic diversity, including groups such as women of colour and young, lesbian, Aboriginal, Francophone,

disabled, low-income, and senior women. Council members are appointed for two- and three-year terms and may serve a maximum total of five years.

In 2011, Chairperson Isabelle Christian completed her maximum term on the Council. In July 2011, Executive Council confirmed the Advisory Council's nomination of Diane Kays as Council's new Chairperson and appointed Catherine Rankin of Summerside as a new member.



Isabelle Christian, Stratford — Outgoing Chairperson

Council term: June 13, 2006, to June 13, 2011

Chairperson's term: January 29, 2008, to June 13, 2011

Isabelle Christian brings to Council her extensive experience as an educator in the school system and in adult learning, as well as a deep concern for the quality of women's lives. Her recent career has focused on finding ways to recognize and credit the skills and knowledge that adults acquire through non-formal learning and facilitating learning with older adults who wish to reintegrate into or remain in the labour force. Isabelle resides with her husband Gerard, in Stratford. They have three grown children and two grandchildren.



Diane Kays, Charlottetown — Incoming Chairperson

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2014

Chairperson's term: July 29, 2011, to March 1, 2014

Diane Kays received her BA from Saint Dunstan's University (1969) and her MSW from Dalhousie University's School of Social Work (1971). Diane's career focused on "Issues of Violence Against Women and Children" and "Trauma Related to Childhood Abuse." Along with being a therapist/counsellor, Diane also taught Social Work students, served on numerous community committees, developed and published programs related to violence against women, and has been an activist for issues related to women and their

families. Diane moved back to PEI from Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 2002 and continued to practice until her retirement in 2009. Diane lives in Charlottetown.



Gwyn Davies, Gairloch — Vice-Chairperson

Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2012

Vice-Chairperson's term: December 31, 2010, to December 31, 2012

Gwyn Davies is dedicated to working for women and children experiencing violence and fear of violence. Gwyn is the Outreach Worker for Eastern PEI for Family Violence Prevention Services. She has been working in the field of violence prevention since 1985, at Anderson House and Outreach Services in Eastern PEI. Gwyn is a mother of three grown daughters. She lives with her husband in Gairloch.



Marcia Enman, Wellington — Treasurer

Council term: June 17, 2009, to June 13, 2012

Marcia Enman is the general manager and editor of *La Voix Acadienne*, the only French-language newspaper on Prince Edward Island. She has been with the paper since 1978 and continues to work to develop the publication that serves the Acadian and Francophone community of PEI. Among her community and volunteer activities, Marcia is vice-president of *L'Association de la presse francophone* and is a village councillor for the Wellington Village Municipal Council. Marcia also sits on the Junior

Achievement of PEI Board as a selection committee member. Marcia remains very interested in *Actions Femmes*, the francophone organization that represents views and works closely with the Acadian and francophone women on the Island and acts as a liaison between this group and the Advisory Council on the Status of Women. Marcia is a single mother of one daughter and lives in Wellington.



Pauline Thomson, Canoe Cove — Member

Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2012

Pauline Thomson of Canoe Cove has worked as a child care specialist at the Anderson House Emergency Shelter and as a Kindergarten Program Supervisor at the Y.M.C.A. in Charlottetown.

She was the International Volunteer of the Year (PEI) recipient (2001), and recently was a volunteer with the Hospice Palliative Care Unit – Prince Edward Home. She is a member of the Canoe Cove Women's Institute.



Susan Connolly, Breadalbane — Member

Council term: January 29, 2008, to December 31, 2012

Susan Connolly of Charlottetown is a member of the Canadian Bar Association and the Law Society of Prince Edward Island. She practices Corporate and Commercial Law at Stewart McKelvey in Charlottetown.



Louise MacLeod, Uigg — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2014

Louise MacLeod worked many years as a nurse and nurse supervisor, a case worker with Protestant Family Services Bureau, and a teacher in adult education. These work experiences made her very aware of the many challenges women face. She has been an active volunteer with Women's Institute, United Church Women, PEI Volunteers for Literacy, 4-H, and other organizations, and she has served on boards for Human Resources Development Canada appeals, Orwell Corner Historic Village, and the Sir Andrew Macphail Homestead. She and her husband Arnold raised a son, a daughter, and a foster daughter and have always been involved in the care of family members and neighbours.



Kelly Robinson, Stratford — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2014

Kelly Robinson is Program Coordinator at Community Legal Information Association (CLIA). She serves as Vice President on the Board of the PEI Rape & Sexual Assault Centre. Her working and volunteer career has focused on social justice issues with a focus on women, persons with intellectual disabilities, Aboriginal peoples, sexual abuse survivors, and family violence. She has a Masters degree in Theory, Culture and

Politics from Trent University and a diploma in Conflict Resolution Studies from UPEI. She lives in Stratford with her menagerie of two cats, a one-eyed gerbil, and a budgie.



Eileen Brown Wilt, West Cape — Member

Council term: March 1, 2011, to March 1, 2014

Eileen Brown Wilt worked in the banking business prior to 21 years' employment with the Workers Compensation Board of PEI. She retired from the Board in January 2011. Eileen has been involved in many volunteer organizations, including the Canadian Cancer Society, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Allied Youth, Meals on Wheels, and Community Schools. An active union member, she served on numerous UPSE Committees including the Education Committee (as Chair). She was a member of the UPSE Civil Service Negotiating Team for the past six agreements. She has also served on the National Union (NUPGE) Women's Committee and the National Union's Champions for Change Campaign. She is a board member for the West Point Development Corporation and a member of Local 19 UPSE Retiree's Group. Her interests include all levels of politics, equality rights, reading, travelling, collecting sea glass, and antique buildings.



Catherine Rankin, Summerside — Member

Council term: July 26, 2011, to July 26, 2014

Catherine Rankin was born and raised in Summerside, PEI. She graduated from Athena Regional High School and completed one year of Business Administration at Holland College. Catherine retired in 2009 after a successful, 33-year career in the hospitality industry. She is a past member of the Charlottetown Royalty Rotary Club and the Summerside Rotary Club, past board member and Committee Chair of the Greater Charlottetown Area Chamber of Commerce, past Executive Board Member of Meetings PEI, and member of the Business Administration Advisory Committee, Holland College. She now lives back in her hometown of Summerside.



All the members and staff of Council with Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty, December 6, 2011.

From left to right: Becky Tramley, Kelly Robinson, Diane Kays, Gwyn Davies, Pauline Thomson, Marcia Enman, Eileen Brown Wilt, Catherine Rankin, Min. Valerie Docherty, Sue Connolly (and Charlie), Lisa Murphy, Jane Ledwell, Louise MacLeod

Staff

The Advisory Council had two full-time and one part-time permanent staff members in 2011–2012.



Lisa Murphy, Executive Director

Lisa joined Council staff in May 1990. She resigned as Director in May 2000 and was asked to return to directing Council in May 2004. She works full-time.



Jane Ledwell, Researcher/Policy Analyst

Jane worked on contract for Council from 2000 to 2001. She returned in June 2004 to work full-time in research and policy analysis.



Becky Tramley, Office Administrator

Becky joined Council in October 1986 and works part-time.

Staff Development

- Staff members Lisa Murphy and Jane Ledwell both successfully graduated in the STEPS for Women training program with Certificates in Interest-Based Conflict Resolution. Jane's community project brought voices of unrepresented women into the Equality Report Card. Lisa's community project, with Pam O'Neill from Grandmother's House, created interest-based tools for Aboriginal youth.
- Two Council members, Gwyn Davies (Family Violence Prevention Services) and Kelly Robinson (Community Legal Information Association), also participated in the STEPS training, representing their paid-work organizations.
- The Advisory Council organized a training opportunity on the effects of bullying, with a presentation by Michael Chipman. Officemates from the PEI Literacy Alliance and the Workers' Compensation Appeals Tribunal took part.
- Other training opportunities included a workshop on e-newsletters and a workshop on de-escalating violent situations in the workplace.

National Coalition of Advisory Councils

The National Coalition of Provincial and Territorial Advisory Councils on the Status of Women was formed in 1995 to provide a venue for strategic action on issues of concern to Canadian women. The Coalition formed when the Canadian

Advisory Council on the Status of Women ceased that same year, leaving a gap in national advocacy. The PEI Advisory Council is joined in the Coalition by similar women's Advisory Councils from other regions of Canada.

List of Major Coalition Activities, 2011–2012

- The National Coalition of Advisory Councils met in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on September 14 and 15, 2011. Chairperson Diane Kays and Policy Analyst Jane Ledwell attended on behalf of the PEI Council.
- Over the course of the two-day meeting, three priority issues emerged: poverty among older women, hypersexualization of girls and women, and violence against women, particularly Aboriginal women.
- Planning for the annual meeting is done jointly among members through e-mail and conference calls. Sessions included the following:
 - Sharing of innovative practices with representatives from Advisory Councils from other provinces and territories.
 - Planning for education and actions on issues of national significance to women.

- For 2012, the Coalition Chairperson is Linda Ross (Newfoundland and Labrador), and the next meeting will take place in Ottawa.
- Councils play a valuable role in their own provinces and territories and the Coalition would very much like to see the return of Advisory Councils in all provinces.



Some of the members of the National Coalition of Advisory Councils on the Status of Women. Left to Right: Stephanie MacInnis-Langley (Nova Scotia), Lorraine Phaneuf (Northwest Territories), Lesley Pairier McLernon (Nova Scotia), Yvonne Spyropoulos (Manitoba), Marlene Bertrand (Manitoba), Jessica Gallant (Newfoundland and Labrador), Diane Kays (PEI), Linda Ross (Newfoundland and Labrador), Jane Ledwell (PEI), Betty Irwin (Yukon), Jhoanna Gonzales Miners (Nova Scotia), Beatrice Farand (Quebec).

POLICY AND RESEARCH

Equality Report Card



Since its inception, the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women has made recommendations to government for changes in policy and legislation to benefit the lives of Island women, girls, and their families. They have shared recommendations with government through the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women and other officials in Policy Guides, correspondence, briefings, submissions, and meetings, both independently and in partnership with other equality-seeking organizations.

In 2008, the Advisory Council published a pilot Equality Report Card to assess government's progress towards implementing recommendations related to women's equality in PEI. In June 2009, Council followed up with a second Equality Report Card, based on a refined process, and gave an interim trends report on progress in 2010. The 2011 Equality Report Card was released in June 2011. The Council committed to renewing the model and releasing priority action areas and criteria for assessment in June 2012 for the 2013 Equality Report Card. The Report Card is developed in collaboration with government and community.

2011 Equality Report Card Highlights

- Council members took part in a months-long collaborative process to determine grades. This included requesting and reviewing reports from government, assessing evidence through a survey, conducting a focus group with under-represented women, setting draft grades in a consensus-based process, consulting with government and community organizations to validate results, and preparing and publishing the final publication.
- On June 22, Council released the *2011 Equality Report Card / Fiche de rendement sur l'égalité 2011* at a news conference during a Council meeting at Stratford Town Hall, Stratford. The news conference was covered by *La Voix acadienne*, *The Guardian*, Ocean 100/K-Rock, CBC Radio, and CBC TV.
- Council later circulated proposed timelines for the 2013 Equality Report Card. They have since made decisions and completed work towards setting priority action areas for 2013 and renewing the model of reporting and assessment.

Assessment

Category	2009	2011
Making Equality a Priority	C+	B
Women in Decision-Making	C	C
Family Violence Prevention	B-	B
Access to Justice	C+	C
Supports for Caregiving	C	B+
Women's Health	C-	C-
Women's Economic Status	D	B-
Overall Average	C	B-

Other Research and Policy Work

In addition to developing the Equality Report Card and assessing the priority issues for action in that document, in 2011–2012, Council also submitted briefing documents to a number of public consultation processes that the government had initiated. Council's

submissions on these issues build on past policy recommendations to government. They are developed with consultation and approval of Council members and, whenever possible, with community organizations with a shared interest in the issue.

Highlights of Other Research and Policy Work, 2011–2012

- Council made a presentation and submitted a written brief to the Commission on Education Governance (December 2011)
- Council developed and submitted a written response to the Province's Poverty Prevention and Reduction discussion paper (January 2012)
- Council also submitted the poverty reduction response brief with a cover letter to the Provincial Treasurer's pre-budget consultations (February 2012)

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION

Inquiries and Referrals

The Advisory Council responds to inquiries from individuals, groups, and government. These range from requests for statistics to crisis calls and requests for advocacy. People make inquiries in person or by telephone, e-mail, or correspondence. Inquiries are often complex and often come from women who have unsuccessfully tried to get service elsewhere.

The Advisory Council does not have the mandate or resources to provide services or to advocate for individual women. We offer support with information, referrals, and, at times, interventions with formal systems. The concerns women raise in individual inquiries often lead to policy analysis by Council to address underlying systemic discrimination.

About Inquiries

- **Relationship break-ups:** Requests for the Council publication *Moving On: A Practical Guide for Women Leaving a Relationship* continued to be frequent. Relationship break-ups continue to be vulnerable times for women, with effects on their physical, emotional, and financial safety and security. This

year, they reported challenges accessing legal aid for family justice, especially custody and access issues; special challenges of break-ups when a family member has a disability; and hardship for self-representing litigants.

- **PEI issues:** Inquiries related to concerns about provincial government laws, policies, or programs including calls about need for local abortion access; need for advocacy for women with intellectual challenges to navigate provincial systems; difficulty finding legal help that is not in conflict-of-interest for a case against government; exhaustion and poverty for caregivers; lone parent with difficulty finding support for return to post-secondary education.
 - Council ED followed up inquiries from several women who had experienced problems with Maintenance Enforcement, supporting them to present government with their ideas to improve the program.
 - Possible discrimination based on marital status in a provincial program was addressed swiftly thanks to follow-up on a woman's inquiry.
- **General inquiries:** Included issues such as stalking, harassment, where to donate clothes and food for women, and ideas on women in government.
- **Referrals:** Referrals were frequently made to the PEI Lawyer Referral Service: the majority of women who call the Advisory Council need to consult a lawyer and do not have the resources to do so. Referrals are sometimes made to the PEI Human Rights Commission. Referrals are made to Family Violence Prevention Services and the Rape and Sexual Assault Centre in cases where violence or sexual abuse/assault occur.

Voters' Guides to the Issues

As part of its legislated mandate to inform and educate the public on the status of women in Prince Edward Island, whenever possible the Advisory Council shares analysis and key questions on issues with voters during elections, referendums, and

plebiscites. In May 2011, there was a federal election in Canada. The Advisory Council did not create special resources for this election. In October 2011, there was a provincial election on PEI, for which the Council developed education materials.

Initiatives to Inform and Educate Voters, 2011–2012:

- Developed, published, and distributed the Equality Matters Election Guide / Enjeux en matière d'égalité, an election guide featuring the members of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women and highlighting questions for them to ask politicians in the 2011 PEI provincial election campaign.
- The Council also created three video interviews with Chairperson Diane Kays to accompany Election Guides:
 - MISSING: Promises for Women* – vimeo.com/29735135
 - Equality Matters: PEI Election 2011* – vimeo.com/28692314
 - Women and the PEI Election* – vimeo.com/28690143

Media

The Advisory Council regularly submits news releases and opinion pieces to the media. The Council also responds to media requests for comment and analysis on issues that affect the lives of

women and families. Ordinarily, the approved spokespersons on behalf of the Council are the Chairperson, the Executive Director, and the Researcher/Policy Analyst.

News Releases, 2011–2012

- Women's Consultation Marks Equality Day (April 18)
- Government Earns a B– on 2011 Equality Report Card / Le gouvernement obtient un B– sur la Fiche de rendement sur l'égalité 2011 (June 22)
- Women's Equality Matters in the Election / Les enjeux en matière d'égalité des femmes et les elections (September 12)
- Coalition of Advisory Councils Meets in Halifax (September 19)
- Promises on Women's Issues Missing in Election Campaign (September 28)
- Council Reacts to Cabinet Appointments (October 19)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence Launches with Calls for Access to Justice / La campagne du ruban violet 2011 vise l'amélioration de l'accès à la justice (November 22)
- Wanted / Recherché (January 30)

Letters to the Editor and Opinion Pieces, 2011–2012

- Violence Must Be Confronted (August 22)

- Access to Justice and an End to Violence (December 6)
- Working Together for Access to Family Justice (February 14)
- Reflexion sur l'histoire des femmes de l'Île / A Reflection on Island Women's History (March 8)

Interview Requests, 2011–2012

- **CBC TV *Compass***: provincial election results (mid-October); end of the gun registry (October 26); Family Violence Prevention Week and domestic violence court (February 15)
- **CTV News Live at Five**: feature on the Purple Ribbon Campaign (November)
- **CBC Radio**: rural access to mental health services (April 19, *Maritime Magazine* panel); provincial election (September 30); provincial election results (October 19); Think Tank on Family Justice (December 2); Stand With Us poster campaign (January 30 and February 9); “Her Name Was Eleanor” video (February 14 *MainStreet* feature); pregnancy-related discrimination (March 22, *Maritime Noon* phone-in); sex trade ruling in the courts (March 27)
- **Ocean 100**: Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 6)
- **The Guardian**: sexist content on a political candidate’s Facebook page (August 9); Abortion Rights Committee (November 10)
- **The Journal-Pioneer**: sex trade ruling in the courts (March 28)

New Media and Social Media

Advisory Council on the Status of Women staff members independently manage content of the Advisory Council's official website at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>.

Whenever possible, news releases and publications are made available on-line at the website as soon as they are released. Since October 2007, the Council has also maintained a weblog at <http://peiacsw.wordpress.com>.

In 2011-2012, the Advisory Council began to develop more expertise in producing its own media and using social media sites. The Advisory Council began producing videos in-house in September 2011. In March 2012, the Advisory Council established an official presence on social networking sites Facebook and Twitter on a trial basis, to be reviewed in the new fiscal year.

Videos, 2011-2012

- Women and the 2011 Election (September 2011) vimeo.com/28690143
- Equality Matters: PEI Election 2011 (September 2011) vimeo.com/28692314
- MISSING: Promises for Women (September 2011) vimeo.com/29735135
- Eliminating Poverty: Advisory Council Members Speak (January 2012) vimeo.com/35542373

- 2011 Montreal Massacre Memorial Service (December 2011)
vimeo.com/33738390
- Her Name Was Eleanor... (February 2012) vimeo.com/36547520
- Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence 2012 (February 2012)
vimeo.com/37245552
- These videos received over 425 views and were shared on social media sites.
- The video "Her Name Was Eleanor..." was most viewed and also led to a CBC radio interview about the video and story.

Wordpress Blog

- From April 1, 2011, to March 31, 2012:
 - People made over 22,700 visits to the blog – an average of 1,890 visits a month and an overall total increase of more than 3900 visits over the previous year. "Stand With Us" posters attracted the most visits.
 - The most visited page was the Islanders Stand With Us Poster Gallery.
 - The most frequent search terms were "report card" and "violence against women." People also searched for individuals by name.
 - Facebook became the top referring site for the first time this year.

Social Media (established March 14, 2011)

- On Facebook: facebook.com/peistatusofwomen
- On Twitter: twitter.com/peiacsw

Council Activities Updates



Council maintains two mailing lists: one for traditional mailings and the other for electronic mailings. Members of the traditional mailing list numbered over 700 by the end of the fiscal year. They

receive *Activities Updates* and special Council publications and promotions. The approximately 250 members of the electronic mailing list receive a weekly listing of community events and notices. These notices are also available to the general public through the Status of Women's blog: peiactsw.wordpress.com.

Activities Updates, 2011–2012

- *Activities Update*, Fall/Winter 2011

Mail-outs, 2011–2012

- 2011 Equality Report Card (selected distribution – July 2011)
- Purple Ribbon Campaign materials (November 2011)

COMMUNITY LIAISON

Meetings and Correspondence on Issues

Advisory Council members and staff attend many meetings and consultations representing the Advisory Council each year. Often, what Council learns in these meetings helps set priorities for Council.

Sometimes, in lieu of meeting with officials, the Advisory Council offers analysis in correspondence on issues of concern.

Meetings with Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women, 2011–2012

- Council Chairperson and staff meetings with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women are supported by a memorandum outlining issues.
 - May 17, 2011 (Chair I. Christian and Min. J. Sherry): Topics included appointments to Council and grades for the Equality Report Card.
 - November 30, 2011 (Chair D. Kays and Min. V. Docherty): Topics included the Purple Ribbon Campaign, Family Justice Think Tank, abortion access, Equality Report Card, Commission on Education Governance, and ideas for collaboration.

- January 19, 2012 (Chair D. Kays and Min. V. Docherty): Topics included the Advisory Council budget request, poverty reduction, and International Women's Day.

Other Selected Meetings, 2011–2012

- Phone, e-mail, and in-person consultations with the Director of the Interministerial Women's Secretariat (regular and ongoing)
- Executive Director briefing for Senator Catherine Callbeck or her office (regular consultation, by phone or e-mail)
- Meeting with Charlottetown MP Sean Casey (December 22)
- Meeting with researcher Patrik Marier, Canada Research Chair in Comparative Public Policy, Concordia University, re: aging population (April 27)
- Meeting with Community Services then-Deputy Minister Sharon Cameron and researcher Wendy MacDonald re: poverty reduction strategy (May 11)
- Meeting with Interministerial Women's Secretariat to provide support to the draft Gender and Diversity Based Analysis manual (June 17)
- Meeting with Director of Maintenance Enforcement and Family Law Centre Manager re: Maintenance Enforcement (October)
- Meeting with new PEI Federated Women's Institute staff (November 3)
- PEI Reproductive Rights Organization's meeting with Health Minister Doug Currie and departmental and Health PEI representatives (December 14)
- Meeting with Population Secretariat Director (January 6)

Selected Correspondence on Issues, 2011–2012

- Letter to follow up Equality Report Card to Justice and Public Safety officials (July 26)
- Letter re: public transit to CAOs of Charlottetown, Cornwall, and Stratford (September 23)
- Letter of welcome to new Chairperson and member of the NS Advisory Council (September)
- Letter to Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Bill C-19 regarding gun control (September)
- Letter of congratulations on re-election to Premier Robert Ghiz (October 4)
- Letter re: abortion access to Health Minister Doug Currie (November 29)
- Letter to follow up PRRO meeting on abortion access to Health Minister Doug Currie (December 20)
- Letter re: access to justice postcards to Justice Minister Janice Sherry (December 20)
- Nomination of a past Council member for the Order of Prince Edward Island (March 29)
- Letters of support for a variety of women's organizations' project proposals (ongoing)
- Letters of congratulations to Island women making a difference (ongoing)

Community Consultations

In 2007, Council members initiated formal community consultations, focusing on groups of women that work on behalf of rural women and women under-represented in provincial debate. In 2011, the Council Chairperson and

Executive Director focused on networking and relationship-building meetings with community partners and groups. The Council also added a focus group with unrepresented women to the process for the Equality Report Card.

Community Consultations, 2011–2012

- Chairperson and ED networking consultations included meetings with the PEI Federated Women's Institutes, the PEI Business Women's Association, and the Canadian Federation of University Women. The Chairperson also spoke to the PEI Hospital Nurses' Alumnae, the ED gave a presentation for the Canadian Federation of University Women, and the Policy Analyst made a presentation on women's rights in Canada to Canada World Youth participants.
- A focus group for the Equality Report Card included 10 unrepresented people (9 women, 1 man) from rural PEI. The group was a pre-existing group recommended by a Council member. In the Report Card, seven text boxes in five categories feature experiences and insights from the consultation.

Special Event: Think Tank on Family Justice



Think Tank Family Justice

In partnership with the Community Legal Information Association (CLIA), the Advisory Council on the Status of Women organized and hosted a think tank on family justice on November 25, 2011.

Invited participants came together in Charlottetown to discuss and brainstorm on how to improve access to family justice on Prince Edward Island.

This event was funded by the Law Foundation of PEI and the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention.

Think Tank Highlights, 2011

- There were 41 participants, including judges, lawyers, court staff, staff from the Family Law Centre, mediators, non-profit staff, government staff, and policy makers.
- The Advisory Council was well-represented, with a majority of Council members participating or helping or both. The Council also provided a one-page resource on the history of family justice as a women's issue.
- Resources including a background paper by CLIA's Ann Sherman, a keynote speech by Honourable Gerard Mitchell, Retired Chief Justice, and a final report

with recommendations from the Think Tank is available at CLIA's website:
http://www.clapei.ca/content/page/resources_tt/

- The top 4 recommendations were the following
 - Create and enact a triage system (intervention at the pre-motion stage) for family law matters.
 - Establish a provincial child advocate whose mandate includes advocating for children whose families are involved with the family justice system.
 - Provide interdisciplinary collaboration at all stages of the legal process in family law matters.
 - Establish a Pro Bono Provincial Program or Pro Bono Society that encourages pro bono work in family law matters and tracks the pro bono work done by Island lawyers.



*Photos from
the 2011
Think Tank
on Family
Justice*

Events

Advisory Council members and staff participate in community-led events whenever possible. The Advisory Council's role at events is often to bring a gender and diversity perspective to the event: to share research and

perspectives on how the issues being discussed may affect women differently from men or positively or negatively affect diverse groups. Council representatives' special roles at events are noted where relevant.

Selected Events, 2011–2012

- Women's Leadership School (April 15–16)
- Human Trafficking Workshop (April 18 – *policy analyst as a small-group facilitator*)
- Homelessness Report Launch (May 9)
- Reception for Atlantic Ministers Responsible for the Status of Women (June 9)
- Women's Network PEI "Hilroy Diaries" Fundraiser (June 11 – *policy analyst as a reader*)
- Council of People with Disabilities Strategic Planning Session (June 15)
- ASI Gender and Community Leadership Symposium (August 17–18)
- As She Tells It: Women's Issues on PEI Panel, UPEI Community Roots Student-Community Orientation (September 17, *policy analyst as a panelist*)

- Sisters in Spirit Vigil (October 4 – *ED as a planning committee member*)
- Screening of *Miss-Representation* Documentary (October 19)
- Roundtable on Poverty in PEI and Canada with Sen. Art Eggleton (October 21 – *policy analyst as event coordinator and recorder*)
- Triple “P” Positive Parenting Program Thinktank (October 31)
- Dinner-Discussion and Film Launch: “Who Will Grow Our Food?” (November 6)
- Coalition for Women in Government Strategic Planning Event (November 8)
- Provincial Forum on Abuse of Older Adults (November 17)
- Reproductive Rights Rally (November 19 – *ED and policy analyst as co-speakers*)
- UPEI Centre for Life-Long Learning Graduation for Interest-Based Conflict Resolution Certificates (November 29 – *ED and policy analyst as graduates*)
- Commission on Education Governance Community Conversation (November 30)
- Poverty Bites/McKillop Centre for Social Justice poverty eradication event (December 7)
- Community Legal Information Association Open House (December 14)
- Rocking and Rolling in Laughter – MP Sean Casey Anti-Poverty Event (January 5)
- PEI Reproductive Rights Organization Meet and Greet (January 7)

- Blazing New Trails: Leadership Pathways for Women in Non-Traditional Occupations (January 20 – *policy analyst as a recorder*)
- PEI Poverty Eradication Coalition session with Centre for Policy Alternatives (January 27)
- “Starting the Conversation” Justice Options Video (FVP Week – February 14)
- Charlottetown Walk in Silence for Victims of Family Violence (FVP Week – February 15)
- What About the Boys? Understanding and Addressing the Challenges to Developing Healthy Masculinity: Women’s Network Workshop (FVP Week – February 16 – *policy analyst as a small-group facilitator*)
- Summerside and Charlottetown Community Town Halls on Family Violence Prevention (FVP Week – February 13 and 16)
- International Women’s Day Potluck – (March 8)
- Resetting the Table: A People’s Food Policy for PEI Workshop (March 13 – *policy analyst as a recorder*)

Partnerships

Partnerships involve commitment to participate in the work of coalitions, task forces, research projects, and other community or collectively led activities. Sometimes, Council uses partnerships as a means of educating groups in the community about gender-based analysis and women's experiences and perspectives. Participating actively as

partners on projects is also an important way that the Advisory Council contributes to other community groups' ability to do their work: the Advisory Council has a responsibility to help press forward recommendations over the longer term for groups that have short-term or project-based funding.

List and Description of Partnerships, 2011-2012

- **Abortion Rights Network:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst sits on this formerly ad hoc committee, which came together to advocate for equitable abortion services and to ensure women have accurate and neutral information about where and how to access abortion services.
ACSW Role: Attending meetings, examining provincial policies; assisting with communication strategies; participating in events and projects.

- **Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities:** The Advisory Council is a partner in and Council's ED serves on the advisory committee for the project "Building Leadership Capacity Among Women and Girls in Atlantic Canada for Action on Underlying Conditions Impacting Their Lives, Their Families and Communities" to develop young and emerging female leaders. *ACSW role:* Attending video-conference meetings; advising on content for programming and events; contributing gender-based analysis, in-kind contribution to report-writing.
- **IWS Grant Adjudication Committee:** Council's ED sits on this committee to review applications and advise the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women on community grants, awarded by the Province where the organizations, principles, objectives, and activities of applicants support the legal, health, social, and economic equality of women. *ACSW role:* Helping to design assessment tools; reviewing applications; helping the committee to decide on recommendations.
- **Justice Options for Women:** The Council ED serves on the advisory committee for this project. Justice Options creates opportunities for community dialogue and input into justice policy regarding the issues of violence against women and the impact on and of restorative justice. In the context of justice options for women victims of violence, this is a necessary next step in encouraging and developing safe and effective responses to violence against women in PEI. Justice Options manages a Status of Women Canada-funded project for Circles

of Safety and Support, to create circles of community support and safety around identified women who face very serious risk of violence.

ACSW role: Participating in meetings to set directions and develop project plans and funding applications; reviewing videos, products and publications; supporting Circles of Safety and Support.

- **LEAF National and LEAF PEI (Women's Legal Education and Action Fund):** Council ED provides continuity in the local link to LEAF, a leading national equality and legal-related organization. LEAF works towards ensuring the law guarantees substantive equality for all women in Canada and has since 1985 intervened in over 150 cases to help establish landmark legal victories for women on issues such as violence against women, sexual assault, workplace inequities, socio-economic rights, and reproductive freedoms.

ACSW role: Maintaining local PEI presence; email communications.

- **Mayor of Charlottetown's Purple Ribbon Task Force on Family Violence Prevention:** The Council ED sits on this task force which works with the community on family violence prevention initiatives funded by the City of Charlottetown, under the banner "Peace Begins at Home" and incorporating the purple ribbon symbol.

ACSW role: Consulting, planning, and assisting with projects and public events; providing graphic design and content for publication materials.

- **PEI Coalition for Women in Government:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst sits as a non-partisan member on this multi-partisan coalition that works to increase the number and proportion of women in elected positions in PEI.
ACSW role: Helping to develop and execute workplans; contributing to creating, polishing, and disseminating research, media work, and publications.
- **PEI Food Security Network:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst participates in this action and education network to improve Islanders' food security (access to adequate affordable, healthy, culturally appropriate and personally acceptable food within a food system that supports producers).
ACSW role: Participating in meetings, workshops, and events; contributing gender analysis; taking part in evaluation; serving on a working group; updating the Website; assisting with note-taking and reports as needed.
- **PEI Public Transit Coalition:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst serves on the steering committee of this coalition to advocate for Island-wide public transit.
ACSW role: Attending steering committee meetings; providing input on gender and social equity in transit issues; promoting public transit.
- **PEI Working Group for a Livable Income:** Council's Researcher/Policy Analyst serves on this coalition of a dozen community organizations that are active in working to counter poverty and advocate for a livable income for all Islanders to live in good health and with dignity.

ACSW role: Participating in meetings and special events; developing recommendations to government on poverty elimination; contributing perspectives on women's poverty; taking minutes for meetings; taking our turn with other organizations to draft publications, correspondence, media releases, and briefs to government.

- **Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention (PAC):** Council's Executive Director is appointed by the Premier to sit on this committee and its Administrative Group. PAC's mandate includes coordinating implementation of the provincial Family Violence Prevention Strategy.

ACSW role: Attending full group and administrative meetings; assisting with direction for the five-year strategy; reviewing documents; contributing to governance tools; advocating for a focus on violence against women and other gender and equality roots of violence; developing proposal for family justice think-tank; assisting with graphic design.

- **Victim Services Advisory Committee:** Council's Vice-Chairperson represents the Council on this committee whose purpose is to exchange information on current and emerging issues related to victims and to help develop policy, programs, services, and legislation and report to the Attorney General and government officials on the needs of victims of crime.

ACSW role: Sharing information, especially from a gender perspective; identifying and bringing issues to the table for discussion.

LEADERSHIP IN ANNUAL EVENTS

Equality Day & Persons Day

Equality Day (April 17) celebrates the coming into force of Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, on April 17, 1985. Section 15 guarantees equality under the law, "without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability."



Persons Day (October 18) each year recognizes the date that women in Canada were first acknowledged as "persons" under the law on October 18, 1929, after the efforts of pioneering women. Being declared "persons" made women eligible for Senate appointments and other legal rights.

Participants in an Equality Day 2011 consultation. Left to right: ACSW member Louise MacLeod, Saskatchewan MLA Sandra Morin, PEI MLA Cynthia King Dunsford, PEIACSW Chair Isabelle Christian, PEI MLA & Speaker Kathleen Casey, Saskatchewan MLA Nadine Wilson, PEIACSW staff person Jane Ledwell, PEIACSW ED Lisa Murphy, Parliamentary Exchanges Officer Jolène Savoie. Missing from photo: Quebec MNA Charlotte L'Écuyer

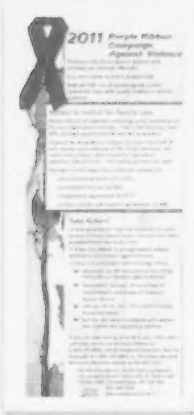
Highlights from Equality Day and Persons Day, 2011

- On Equality Day, April 17, Advisory Council representatives met for a consultation on with women legislators from a delegation of MLAs and MNAs from Saskatchewan, Quebec, and PEI. The event was part of an outreach program coordinated by the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians organization, which brings together elected women from across Canada and all regions of the Commonwealth.
- On Persons Day, October 18, 2011, the newly elected provincial government appointed its Executive Council. The Advisory Council issued a news release in response to the Cabinet appointments and included public education information about Persons Day and the historic and contemporary importance of women in government.



PEI Premier Robert Ghiz (at centre) appointed a new Executive Council on Equality Day 2011. He included only two women, Valerie Docherty at (far left) and Janice Sherry (at far right), seen here flanking the eight men appointed.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Against Violence



December 6 is the National Day of Remembrance and Action to commemorate the murder of 14 female engineering students in Montreal in 1989. Every year, the Advisory Council's Purple Ribbon Campaign involves

volunteers Island-wide in the effort to distribute ribbons and information cards with facts and statistics about family violence. Islanders are encouraged to wear the purple ribbon on or near December 6, and again during Family Violence Prevention Week in February, to remember all women who are victims of violence. The Advisory Council also organizes and participates in the annual noontime December 6 Memorial Service in Charlottetown.

Purple Ribbon Campaign Highlights, 2011

- **Theme:** Access to Justice for Family Law
- **Number of ribbons/cards distributed:** 12,000 bilingual cards
- **Teachers' Resource Guides:** For Grade 7 Social Studies and Grade 9 Health, available in both English and French, with curriculum connections and resources on violence against women. Handouts, also available in English and

in French, included Background on the Purple Ribbon Campaign, 20 Ways Young People Can Help End Violence; "For Montreal, a poem by Tanya Davis; and "Sisters Remembered," a painting by Lisa Murphy.

- **Campaign Highlights:**
 - The murder of a ninth PEI woman since 1989 gave this year's Purple Ribbon Campaign poignancy and urgency. Maureen MacDonell, 36 years old, died on November 13, 2011. Her family requested purple ribbons for the mourners at her funeral.
 - The Purple Ribbon Campaign was officially launched on the UN's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, November 25th, at the Think Tank on Family Justice.
 - Information cards included a call to action, inviting Islanders to express their interest in access to justice issues through a postcard campaign to Justice Minister Janice Sherry.
- **Memorial Service:** The PEIACSW organized the Charlottetown Memorial Service held on Monday, December 6, in Memorial Hall at the Confederation Centre of the Arts. All Advisory Council members took part in the service. About 200 people attended the Charlottetown noontime service.
 - Diane Kays, chairperson of the ACSW, was this year's guest speaker. Her speech, "Her Name Was Eleanor..." shared her powerfully moving story of the impact on her life and career as a social worker when a woman she was helping was murdered.

- Candle-lighters included Premier Robert Ghiz, Minister Responsible for the Status of Women Valerie Docherty, RCMP, City Police, and representatives from equality-seeking groups.
- Special contributions to the service included an opening prayer in Farsi by Mahin Safary, music by Dr. David Morrison, and candle-lighting by Kayla McMurrer, daughter of Carrie Ellen (McMurrer) Crossman, who was murdered in 1989.
- Financial and in-kind contributors to the Purple Ribbon Campaign included the Premier's Action Committee on Family Violence Prevention, Premier Robert Ghiz's office, the City of Charlottetown, the Interministerial Women's Secretariat, Doreen Kays, Francis Handrahan, GloriaJean Murphy, Quilting B & More, Hearts and Flowers, and the Confederation Centre of the Arts
- Special efforts to contribute volunteer time and partnership support to the Campaign this year came from the Federated Women's Institutes of PEI and the women and staff at Grandmother's House shelter for homeless women.

*Chairperson Diane Kays lights a candle
at the 2011 Dec. 6th Memorial Service*

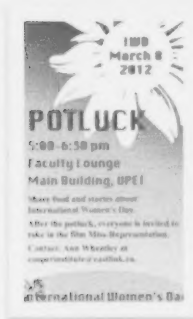


Family Violence Prevention Week 2012

- Schools: Council provided approximately 1,200 purple ribbons and handouts to schools.
- Stand with Us: Council initiated a poster campaign inviting Islanders, both men and women, to submit photos and pledge to “Stand With Us” against violence against women and children.
- The Advisory Council’s blog featured more than 135 posters of more than 250 Islanders. The blog received an astounding 12,600 visits during the poster campaign, including 2,200 in one day. Advisory Council member Kelly Robinson ably coordinated logistics and communications for the campaign.
- The poster display also travelled to Family Violence Prevention Week events in Montague, Charlottetown, and Summerside.
- Council released a video featuring Diane Kays’s speech from the December 6th Memorial Service. Diane did media interviews about the video and also published a commentary, “Working Together for Access to Family Justice.”
- Council representatives participated in events: “Starting the Conversation” video screening; Walks in Silence for Victims of Family Violence in Montague, Cardigan, and Charlottetown; “What About the Boys?” workshop; and Town Halls on Family Violence Prevention in Charlottetown and Summerside.



International Women's Day – March 8



United Nations-declared International Women's Day (IWD) takes place on March 8 each year. Events on International Women's Day and throughout the

week surrounding it recognize the ongoing struggle of women for equity, locally and globally. Often, International Women's Day events and education focus on women's equality in the workplace, since IWD's roots are in the labour movement. In 2012, the Advisory Council on the Status of Women met on International Women's Day to allow all members to take part in events.

Highlights from International Women's Day, 2012

- The chairperson published a commentary, "Reflexion sur l'histoire des femmes de l'Île / A Reflection on Island Women's History."
- Council staff helped organize an International Women's Day potluck celebration followed by a screening of *Miss-Representation*.
- All of Council attended a book launch hosted by Min. Docherty of *Trois siècles d'action : Les Acadiennes de l'Île-du-Prince-Édouard* and then took part in a luncheon consultation.

Bursaries for Women

Each year, the Advisory Council awards three bursaries for post-secondary education. The first and second of these bursaries go to two women to help them continue their studies at the University of Prince Edward Island and Holland College. The third bursary, named for late Council vice-chairperson Inge

Blackett, supports ongoing studies for a woman who is a recent immigrant to Canada. Since 2010, a bursary is also offered for a student at the Collège de l'Acadie. The deadline to apply for bursaries for 2012 is now **October 15** for all four bursaries.

Bursary Recipients, 2011

- Collège de l'Acadie: Julia Arsenault
- University of Prince Edward Island Bursary: No applicants.
- Holland College Bursary: Allyson Drake
- Inge Blackett Bursary: Ariana Sadat

PUBLICATIONS LIST

The following is a summary list of publications mentioned above. These publications are usually available in hard copy from the Advisory Council or in electronic copy on its Website at <http://www.gov.pe.ca/acsw>

- **2011 Equality Report Card / Fiche de rendement sur l'égalité 2011** (June 2011). *Council's most recent assessment of government's progress towards women's equality goals on Prince Edward Island.*
- **Equality Matters Election Guide / Enjeux en matière d'égalité** (September 2011). *An election guide featuring the members of the PEI Advisory Council on the Status of Women and highlighting questions for them to ask politicians in the 2011 PEI provincial election campaign.*
- **Access to Justice: An Issue for Women** (November 2011). *A backgrounder on access to family justice issues for a November 25 think tank on family justice.*
- **Purple Ribbon Campaign 2011 Resource Guide for PEI Teachers / Guides de ressources pour les enseignant(e)s, Campagne du ruban violet contre la violence** (November 2011). *Guides for teachers for use with the 2011 Purple Ribbon Campaign against Violence, with connections to Grade 7 Social Studies*

and Grade 9 Health curriculum. Available in English and French. Including handouts:

- 20 Ways You Can Help End Violence / Vingt façons d'aider à mettre fin à la violence
 - Background / Contexte
 - For Montreal / Pour Montreal by/par Tanya Davis
 - Sisters Remembered painting by/peinture par Lisa Murphy
- **Submission to the Commission on Education Governance** (December 2011). *A presentation regarding issues for women and their families related to education governance on PEI.*
- **Response to the Poverty Reduction Strategy Discussion Paper** (January 2012). *A response to the discussion paper on preventing and reducing poverty on PEI, featuring Council members' points of view and recommendations.*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

AUDITOR GENERAL
CHIEF OF FINANCE
CHIEF OF ACCOUNTS
AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of the
Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women

I have audited the financial statements of the **Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women**, which comprise the statements of financial position as at March 31, 2011 and 2012, and the statements of operations and accumulated net assets changes in net assets for the years then ended, and in addition a summary of significant accounting policies and other supplementary information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for the public sector and the basic internal control system management considers necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatements related to the fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on the audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, in making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the audit in order to design and perform the audit procedures in order to obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes assessing the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as assessing the overall financial statement presentation.

I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my audit opinion.

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as at March 31, 2011 and 2012, and the results of its operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for the public sector.


 Colin Younger, CA
 Auditor General

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island
 September 5, 2012

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT MARCH 31, 2012

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Financial Assets		
Cash	9,817	57,581
Accounts receivable	298	719
	<u>10,115</u>	<u>58,300</u>
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities (Note 3)	12,572	9,804
Deferred revenue (Note 4)	—	55,258
	<u>12,572</u>	<u>65,062</u>
Net Debt	15,737	254
Non-Financial Assets		
Prepaid expenses	551	347
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit)	(15,185)	—32

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

Approved on behalf of the Council


Chairperson


Council Member

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND ACCUMULATED DEFICIT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	Budget 2012 \$	2012 \$	2011 \$
Revenues			
Grants - Province of Prince Edward Island	125,200	138,054	138,500
Program revenue	5,000	1,500	2,500
Other	—	200	200
	<u>130,200</u>	<u>139,754</u>	<u>141,200</u>
Expenses			
Administration	10,723	10,169	10,940
Contracts	8,000	9,719	14,973
Council meetings/travel	32,810	24,763	22,963
Capital assets	900	509	1,467
Materials and supplies	1,100	8,542	7,825
Salaries and benefits	150,269	134,802	144,231
	<u>203,702</u>	<u>186,405</u>	<u>202,300</u>
Annual Surplus (Deficit)	—	(46,651)	38,900
Accumulated Surplus beginning of year	—	39	73
Accumulated Surplus (Deficit), end of year	—	(46,612)	38,973

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET DEBT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

	Budget 2012 \$	2012 \$	2011 \$
Net Debt, beginning of year	254	254	5,369
Changes in year:			
Annual surplus (deficit)	—	(15,279)	20
Change in prepaid expenses	—	(264)	1,089
Change in Net Debt	—	(15,543)	1,109
Net Debt, end of year	254	14,797	224

(The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.)

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

1. Purpose of the Organization

The Prince Edward Island Advisory Council on the Status of Women is a government appointed provincial advisory agency. The Council works for equality and supports women's full and active participation in social, legal, cultural and political spheres of life. The Council is a non-business entity under the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2012 have been prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for the public sector. Prior period financial statements were prepared in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations. The adoption of public sector accounting standards has been applied retrospectively. The application of the new accounting framework did not affect previously reported results. Impacts on the financial statements were limited to presentation and disclosures.

a) Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are recorded at cost less any provision when collection is in doubt.

b) Prepaid Expenses

Prepaid expenses consist of lease and insurance payments and are expensed over the periods expected to benefit.

c) Tangible Capital Assets

Tangible capital assets are recorded at non-financial assets acquired through purchase or donation less their accumulated depreciation and amortization. Tangible capital assets not meeting approved thresholds are expensed.

d) Revenues

Revenues are recognized in the period in which the transaction or event that gave rise to the revenue occurred. All revenues are recorded on an accrual basis, except when the accrual cannot be determined with a reasonable degree of certainty or when their estimation is impracticable.

Transfers (revenues from non-exchange transactions) are recognized on a accrual basis when the transfer is authorized, any eligibility criteria are met and reasonable estimates of the amounts can be made. Transfers are recognized as deferred revenue when amounts have been received but not all eligibility criteria have been met.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
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NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued...)

a) Expenses

Expenses are reported on an accrual basis in the period in which the transaction or event that gives rise to the expense occurred.

3. Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	20,986	7,770
Salaries and benefits payable	4,520	2,229
	24,504	9,999

4. Deferred Revenue

Deferred revenue is set aside for specific purposes as required either by legislation, regulation or agreement as at March 31, 2012.

	Balance at Beginning of year \$	Receipts During Year \$	Transferred to Revenue \$	Balance at End of Year \$
Operating Funding	45,750	—	45,750	—

Deferred revenue consists of an operating grant from the Province of Prince Edward Island.

5. Employee Future Benefits

a) Sick Leave

Employees of the Council are granted a bank amount of 10 days of paid sick leave in April 1 of each fiscal year. Unused sick days may be accumulated to a maximum of 35 days. The use of accumulated sick days for sick leave compensation, illness or termination of employment and there is no obligation to settle these amounts with staff members. A liability, if any, has not been recognized or recognized in these financial statements.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
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FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2012

5. Employee Future Benefits (continued...)

a) Pension Benefits

Permanent employees of the Council participate in the Province of Prince Edward Island's Civil Service Superannuation Pension Plan (the Plan) which is a multi-employer contributory defined benefit pension plan. The Plan provides a pension on retirement based on the payment of the employee salary for the highest three years (the number of years of the pensionable service). The Plan is administered by the Province of Prince Edward Island. The Council's annual portion of contributions to the Plan is paid by the Province and any unfunded liability is the responsibility of the Province and therefore is liability has been recognized in these financial statements.

6. Contractual Obligation

A contract is in effect until October 15, 2015, with annual wage payments of \$1,300 (plus applicable taxes).

7. Related Party Transactions

The Council received the following grants from the Province:

	2012 \$	2011 \$
Operating Grant	156,000	156,000
Other Grants	3,261	2,300
	159,261	158,300

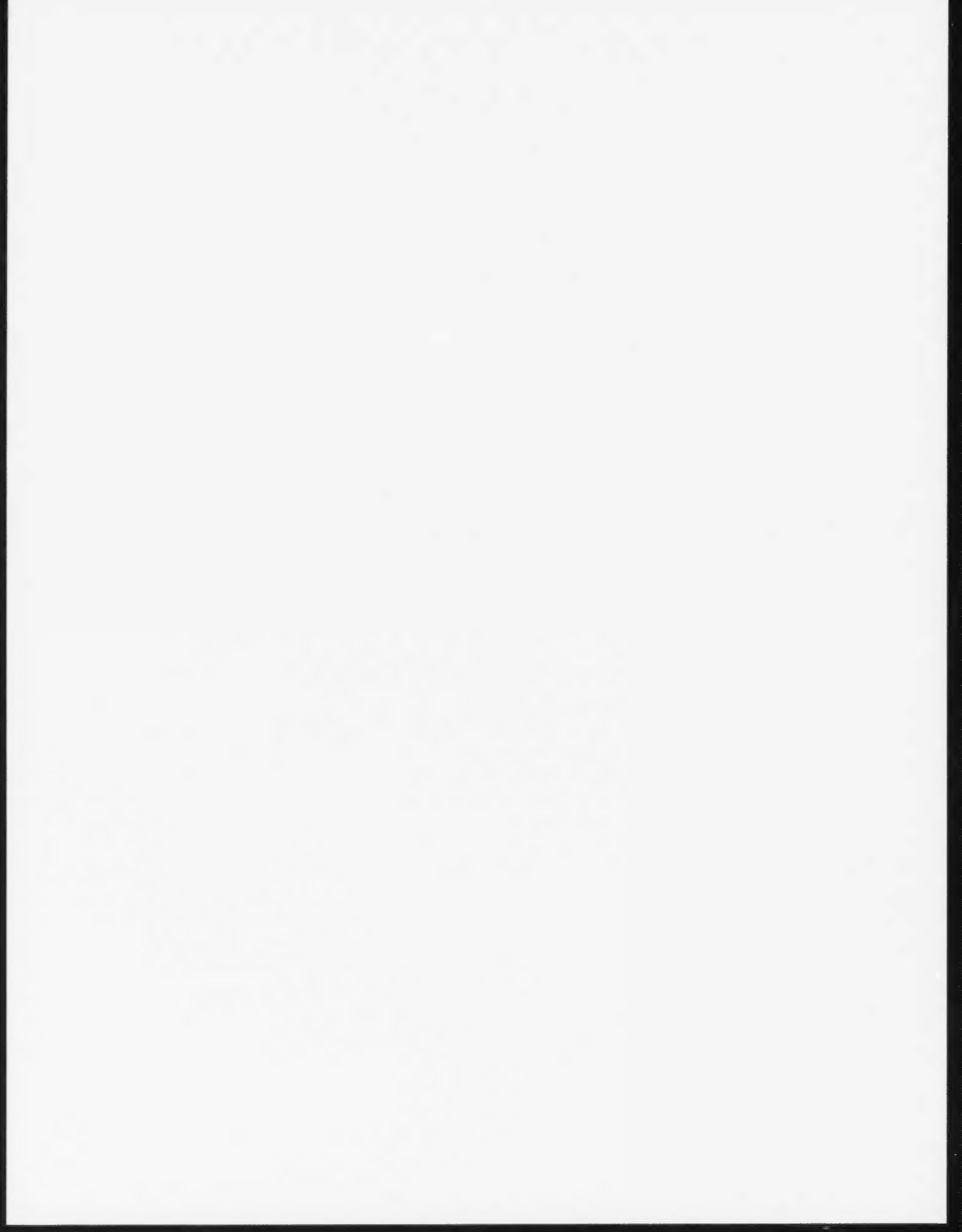
Certain costs incurred by the Province of Prince Edward Island on behalf of the Council are not reflected in these financial statements. These costs include rental of the Council's office and related expenses and certain employee benefits.

8. Statement of Cash Flow

A statement of cash flow has not been prepared as the required cash flow information is readily apparent from the other information included in these financial statements.

9. Budgeted Figures

Budgetary figures provided for comparative purposes have been derived from estimates approved by the Council.





PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND
Advisory Council on the Status of

WOMEN

For additional copies of this report:

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